1 - Belmont
1 - Sullivan
1 - W. L. Smith
1 - Branigan
1 - Lenihan
1 - Lee

February 7, 1964

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REC'D-READING ROOM
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LIBERO RICCIARDELLI

Libero Ricciardelli lived in Russia from February, 1959, until June, 1963, along with his wife and three children. On his return to the United States, he was interviewed by Agents of this Bureau and furnished information concerning himself and his life in Russia. A summary of these interviews is set forth as follows.

Ricciardelli was born in Needham, Massachusetts, June 18, 1917, and was educated through the tenth grade. After serving in the United States Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1947, he was demobilized and became a plasterer. He married in 1944 and has three children born in 1946, 1948, and 1950.

In 1958 Ricciardelli was having domestic problems and when his wife refused to visit a psychiatrist, he began unsupervised reading in the fields of psychology and philosophy. As a result, he decided to take his wife and three children on a visit to Russia, a socialistic state. They traveled to Russia February, 1959, on round-trip tickets.

After arriving in Moscow, Ricciardelli ran out of money in a short time and then became hospitalized for a period of 21 days. When he returned from the hospital arrangements were made with the International Red Cross for financial assistance. Ricciardelli stated that during the next few months his family problems, mental worries, and poor health caused him to become mentally disturbed. Finally, his wife stated that she was going to return with the children to the United States and at this time Ricciardelli decided to stay in Russia. By this act he felt that he was cutting away from the past and was also making certain that his children would be given an education. He requested that he be sent to a climate more beneficial to his health and he was sent to Kiev. His wife and children refused to accept Soviet passports.

Tolson
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Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

105-72888
ORIG AND ONE FURNISHED COMMISSION
J L:pa (11)
1 - 105-72888 (Ricciardelli)
1 - 105-81285 (Webster)

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ENCLOSURE

Libero Ricciardelli

In the Summer of 1960 Ricciardelli was on vacation in a Russian Government vacation resort. One night he stayed out of the hotel after midnight and found himself locked out. When he attempted to climb the wall and enter the hotel by the balcony, he was stopped by a policeman who demanded an explanation. This act made Ricciardelli feel that he was actually in prison rather than on a vacation.

As a result of his general disappointment with life in Russia and the above incident, he and his wife began to plan to leave the Soviet Union. They decided to go to Czechoslovakia which they considered to be more Westernized than any of the other satellites. He visited the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Moscow and applied for visas to enter that country. After a period of complete confusion for the next two years, Ricciardelli was finally informed that visas would be granted for travel to Czechoslovakia. However, they were then informed by the Soviet Government that they would not be permitted to leave the Soviet Union.

In August, 1962, Mrs. Ricciardelli decided she would return to the home of her parents in Illinois and Ricciardelli would return to the home of his parents in Massachusetts. Since Mrs. Ricciardelli still had her American passport, she was able to leave Russia on March 27, 1963.

When Ricciardelli applied for his passport at the American Embassy in Moscow, he was told that he was no longer an American citizen. He then filed an application for a visa to return as an alien to the United States. The visa was issued on June 14, 1963, but he was required to remain in Moscow for fourteen days because of confusion over the status of his oldest daughter's citizenship. His problem was finally resolved and he left Russia June 28, 1963.

At no time did anyone ever ask Ricciardelli anything about his service in the United States Air Force. In addition, no attempt was made to have him join the Communist Party. He was requested on several occasions to make a speech to groups of workers at the plant where he was employed but he refused to do so. He was urged to vote in Soviet elections but he never did so. Before his departure from Russia he was not interviewed by any official of the Russian Government nor by any members of the Soviet press. At no time did anyone ever attempt to recruit him to act on behalf of the Soviet Government after his return to the United States.